

MAJOR WALKER HOUSE.
LEWISTOWN ILLINOIS.

H. A. B. S. NO. ILL.-283.

HABO

ILL,

28. Lewis,

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO ILL-2.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
EDGAR E LUNDEEN - DISTRICT OFFICER.
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON ILL.

MAJOR NEWTON WALKER HOUSE
Lewistown, Fulton County, Illinois

Present Owner. Ezra Quigley.

Date of Erection. 1851.

Architect. Major N. Walker.

Builder. Major Walker.

Present Condition. The building stands as originally constructed. There has been little change, except for enclosing what was formerly a porch between the kitchen and house proper. The kitchen has been extended in width, and the former porch has been made into a dining room.

Number of Stories. One and a half, with basement.

Materials of Construction. The basement walls and footings are of sandstone, of the local variety. All exterior walls and first floor interior walls are brick masonry.

The interior walls are finished with plaster and wall paper. There is a white pine wainscoting running the height of the window stools in all the rooms. The interior trim, with the exception of the wainscot, is made from wild cherry. The flooring is 1" x 5" hard maple.

The joists are 2" x 6" and 18" on centers. The rafters are 3" x 4", 2' on centers, covered with 1" x 4" oak sheathing and wood shingles. The roof is pitched, with buttressed brick gable ends.

Other Existing Records. None.

Additional Data. Major Newton Walker was born in 29 Lewis Madison County, Virginia, in 1803. At 21, as Major in the State Militia, he commanded the escort of Lafayette in 1824. In 1835, he came to Lewistown in Illinois.

In 1837, he was architect and superintendent of construction in the building of the court house at Lewistown. He first lived in a log cabin on the present farm, before building the house which is the subject of this record.

He was elected Representative in 1838, and subsequently held many offices of trust in the township. In Virginia he listened to Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Randolph and Henry Clay; and in Illinois he became intimately acquainted with Abraham Lincoln. Major Walker entertained Mr. Lincoln in his home for dinner the evening he (Mr. Lincoln) delivered the glowing eulogy on the Declaration of Independence, which was declared to be worthy of preservation among the Nation's classics.

References: Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. Vol. 14. 1921-22.

History of Fulton County - Chapman & Co. 1879.

Louis Van Rensselaer

(Approved)

Wm. E. Lunden
District Officer

7/28/01